

# Strategic Corridors

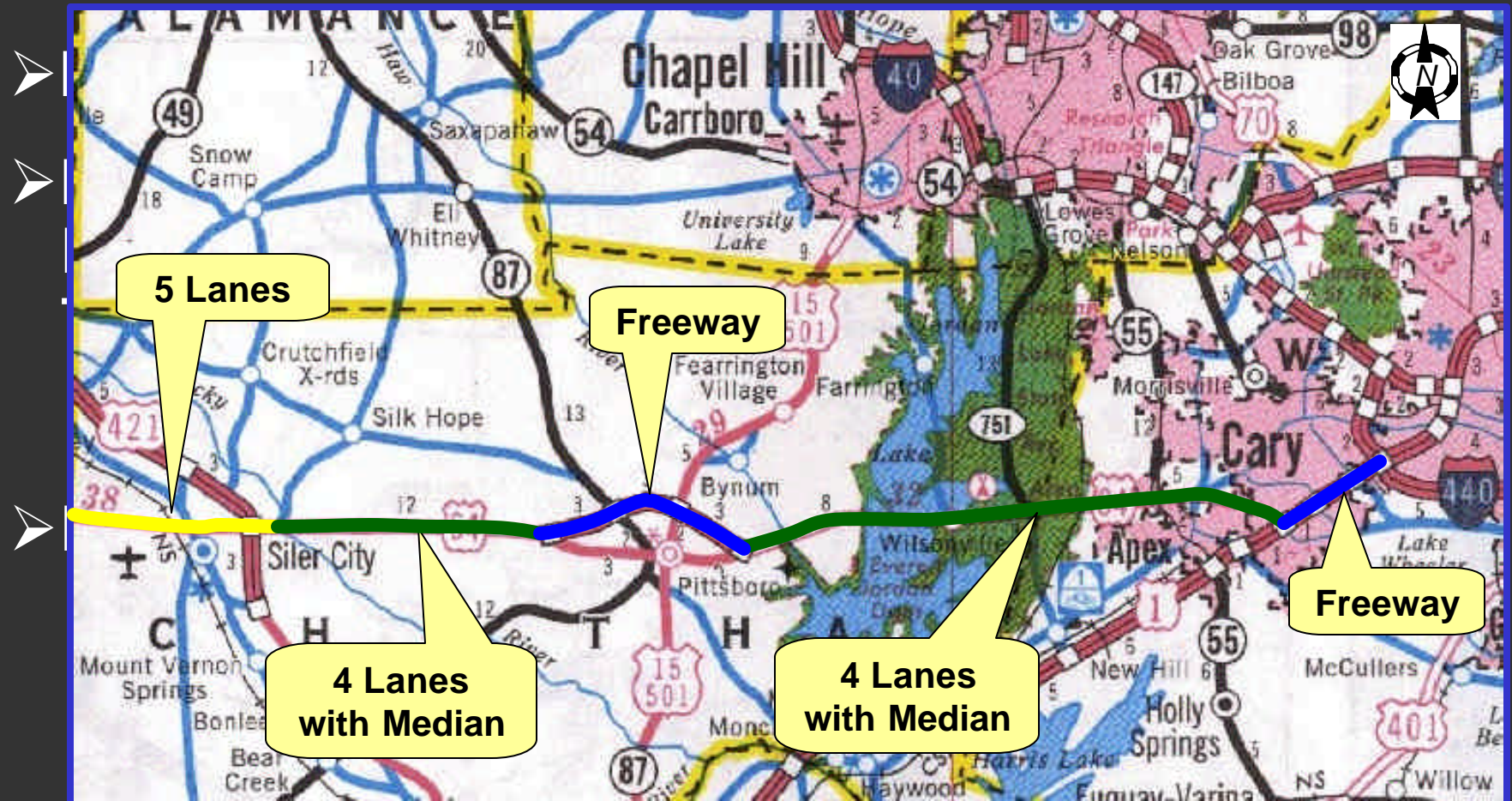
A photograph of a multi-lane highway with a white sedan in the foreground and trees lining the sides. The road is paved and has white dashed lane markings. A solid yellow line runs along the left shoulder. The road is flanked by dense green trees. In the distance, there are orange traffic cones and other vehicles. The sky is blue with some clouds.

*prepared by:*

**NCDOT Statewide Planning Branch  
Fall/Winter 2003/2004**

# Highway System in NC

- Caretakers of a Large Highway System
- Isolated Decision-Making



# ***NCDOT Project Process***

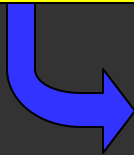
**Long-Range Planning**  
Determining the Need

**Program Development**  
Funding the Projects

**Project Planning**  
Minimizing the Impacts

**Project Design**  
Design & ROW

**Construction & Maintenance**  
Building & Maintaining the System



# *Strategic Corridors Concept*

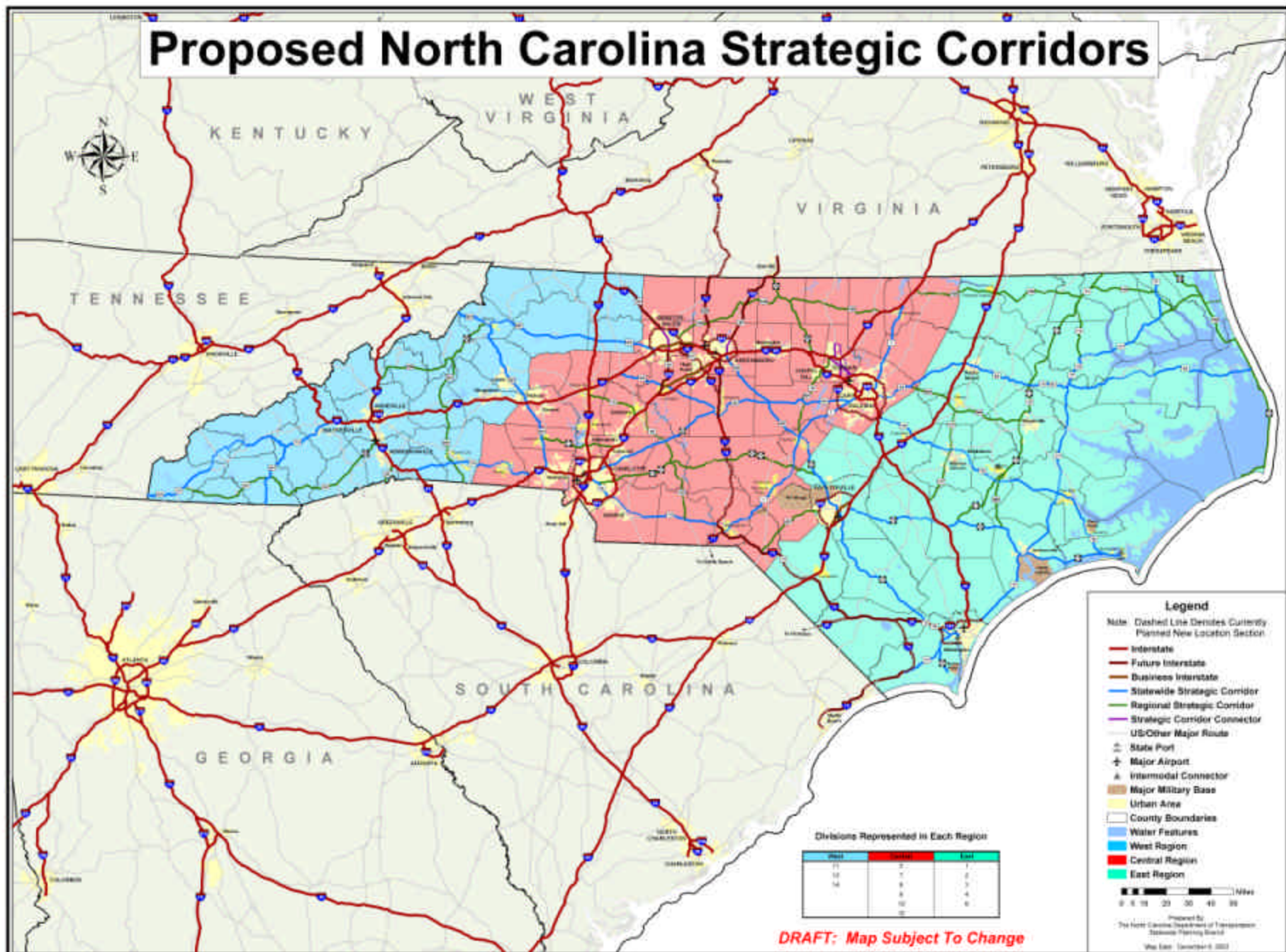
*A New Approach*

**Visionary**

**Proactive**

**Holistic/Systemic**

# Proposed North Carolina Strategic Corridors



# *Definitions*

(According to the Smart Duo of Merriam and Webster)

**Strategic:** Designed or Trained to Strike an Enemy at the Sources of his [or her] Military, Economic, or Political Power

**Strategic:** Of Great Importance within an Integrated Whole or a Plan

**Corridor:** A Tract of Land Forming a Passageway, such as one that Allows an Inland Access to the Sea or one that Connects to Major Cities

**Concept:** An Abstract or Generic Idea Generalized from Particular Instances

# Definitions

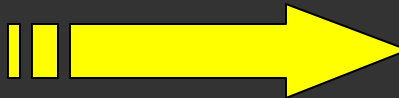
**Strategic + Corridors + Concept=**

An Abstract Idea regarding a Tract of Land  
Forming a Passageway of Great Importance within  
an Integrated Plan

**Interpretation:** *"A set of Existing Highways Vital  
to Moving People and Goods within and just outside  
North Carolina"*

# Goals

- Create Up Front Vision for each Corridor
- Affect Long-Term Decision Making
  - Funding Decisions
  - Project Planning Decisions
  - Design Decisions
  - Day to Day Decisions (ex: Driveway Permits)
  - Local Land Use Decisions



# *Strategic Corridors*

## *What will this do?*

- Promotes Mobility & Creates Connectivity
- Fosters Economic Prosperity
- Minimizes Impact to the Environment
- Wiser use of Limited Dollars

# *Types of Roads*

## ➤ Interstates (Existing, Business, & Future)



## ➤ Statewide Strategic Corridors



## ➤ Regional Strategic Corridors



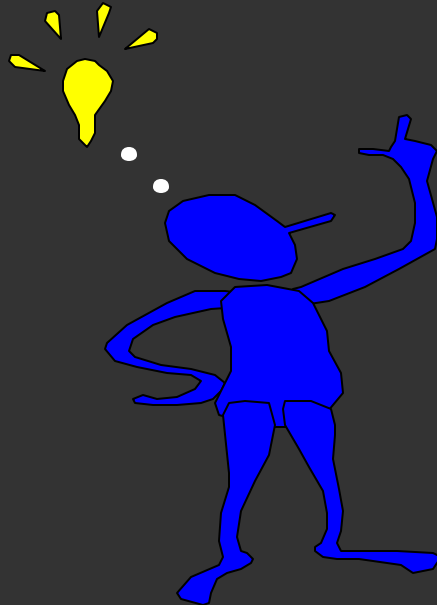
## ➤ Strategic Corridors Connectors



# *Corridor Selection*

## How Did We Identify these Roads (Corridors)?

- Objective Criteria
- Other Factors
- Level of Subjectivity (Common Sense)



# *Objective Criteria*

- 1. Mobility:** Significant Traffic Volumes and Vital to the State's and/or Region's Interest
- 2. Connectivity:** Provides a Connection between Activity Centers (Cities)
- 3. Interstate Connectivity:** Provides a Connection between Existing and/or Planned Interstates
- 4. Interstate Reliever:** Currently Serves or has Potential to Serve as a Reliever Route to an Existing Interstate Facility

# *Other Factors*

- Hurricane Evacuation Route
- Cited in Prominent Report (ex. Rural Prosperity Task Force Report)
- Part of a National, Statewide, Economic, or Military Highway System (ex. NHS or STRAHNET)



# *Summary of Concept*

- **New, Proactive Approach**
- **Moving and Connecting People and Goods**
- **Maximizing use of Existing Highways  
(Environmental Stewardship)**
- **Built on Objective Criteria**



# *Definitions*

- **Major Activity Center:** Urban Area (City) having a Population of 50,000 or more (MPO)
- **Regional Activity Center:** Urban Area having a Population of at least 20,000 but less than 50,000



# ***Statewide Strategic Corridors***

## **Characteristics**

- High Traffic Volumes, High Truck %
- Serve Long-Distance Travel (Murphy to Manteo)
- Major Users include Long-Haul Trucks and Tourists (People passing Through)
- Connect **Major Activity Centers**, Major Military Bases, State Ports, and Major Airports

## **Desired to be Signal-Free roads:**

- Freeways
- Expressways

# ***Regional Strategic Corridors***

## **Characteristics**

- Significant Traffic Volumes
- Serve Regional Destinations (Chapel Hill to Danville)
- Major Users include Commuters and Locals (People that live and work in the area)
- Connect **Regional Activity Centers**

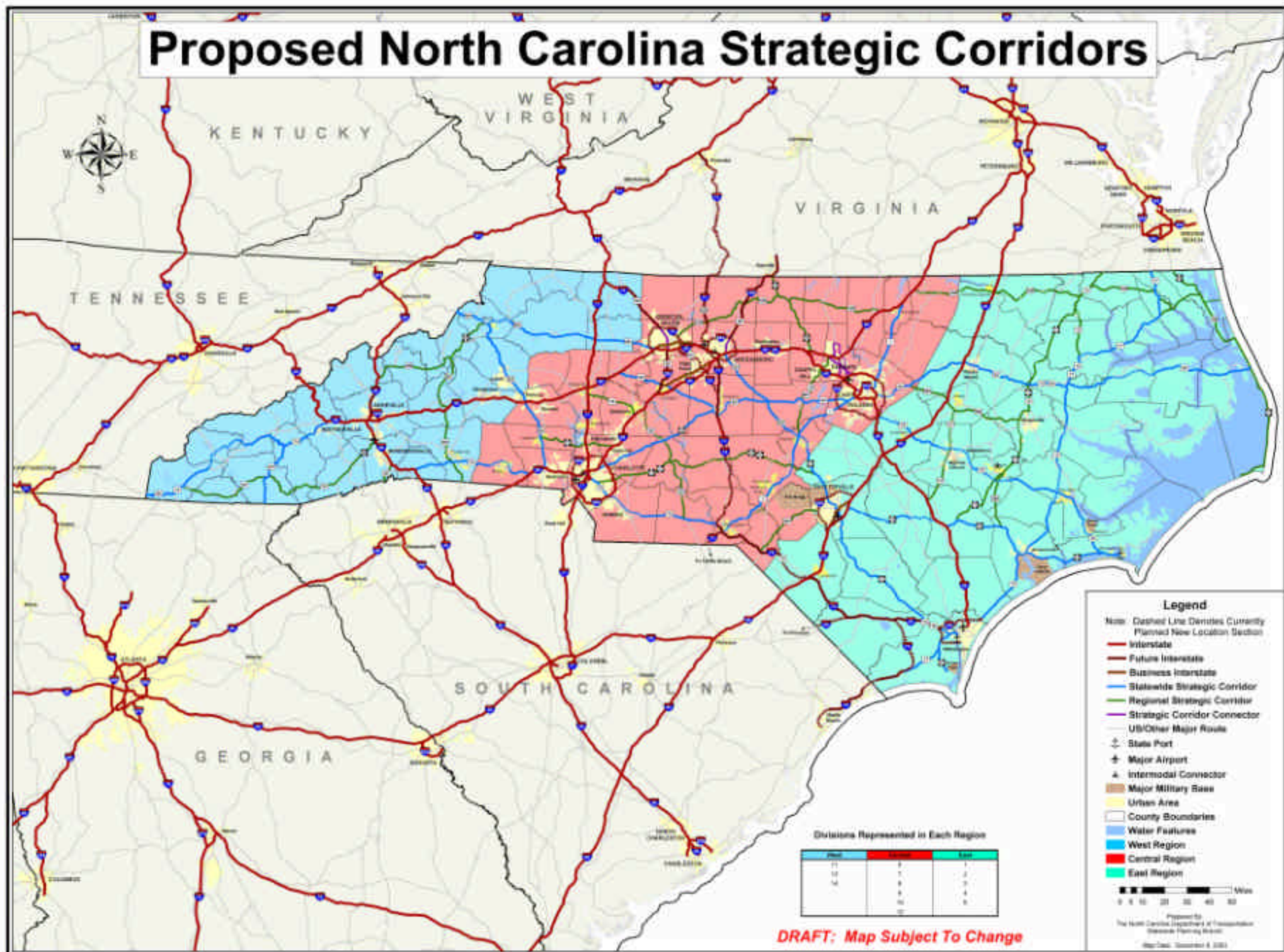
**Desired to be built to Highest Appropriate Design**

- 4 Lane Div. Hwy OR 2 lane Rd w/ extra turn lanes

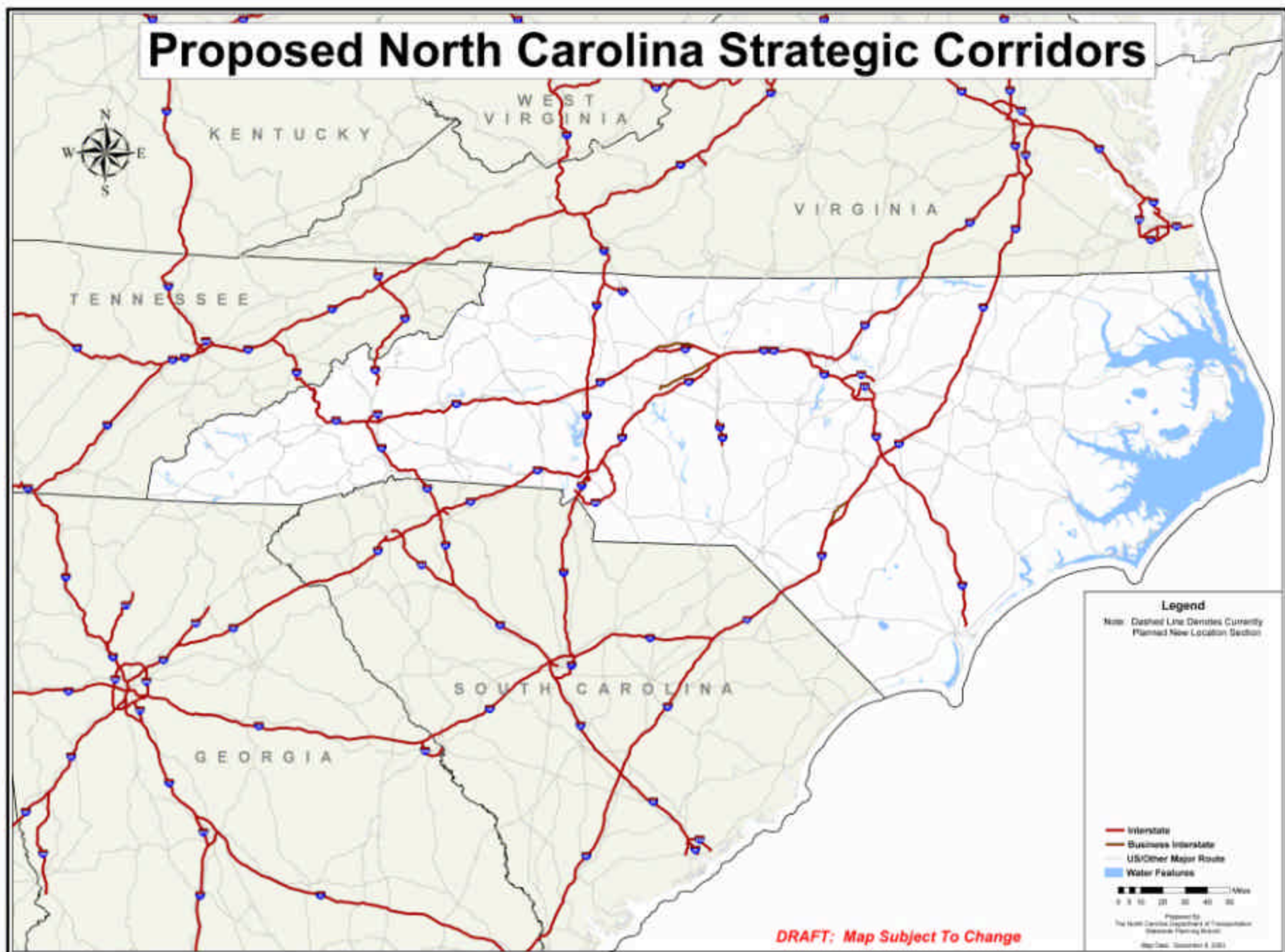
# ***Strategic Corridor Connectors***

- **"Fill in the Gaps" (Short Segments)**
- **Bring Motorists to the Central Business District**

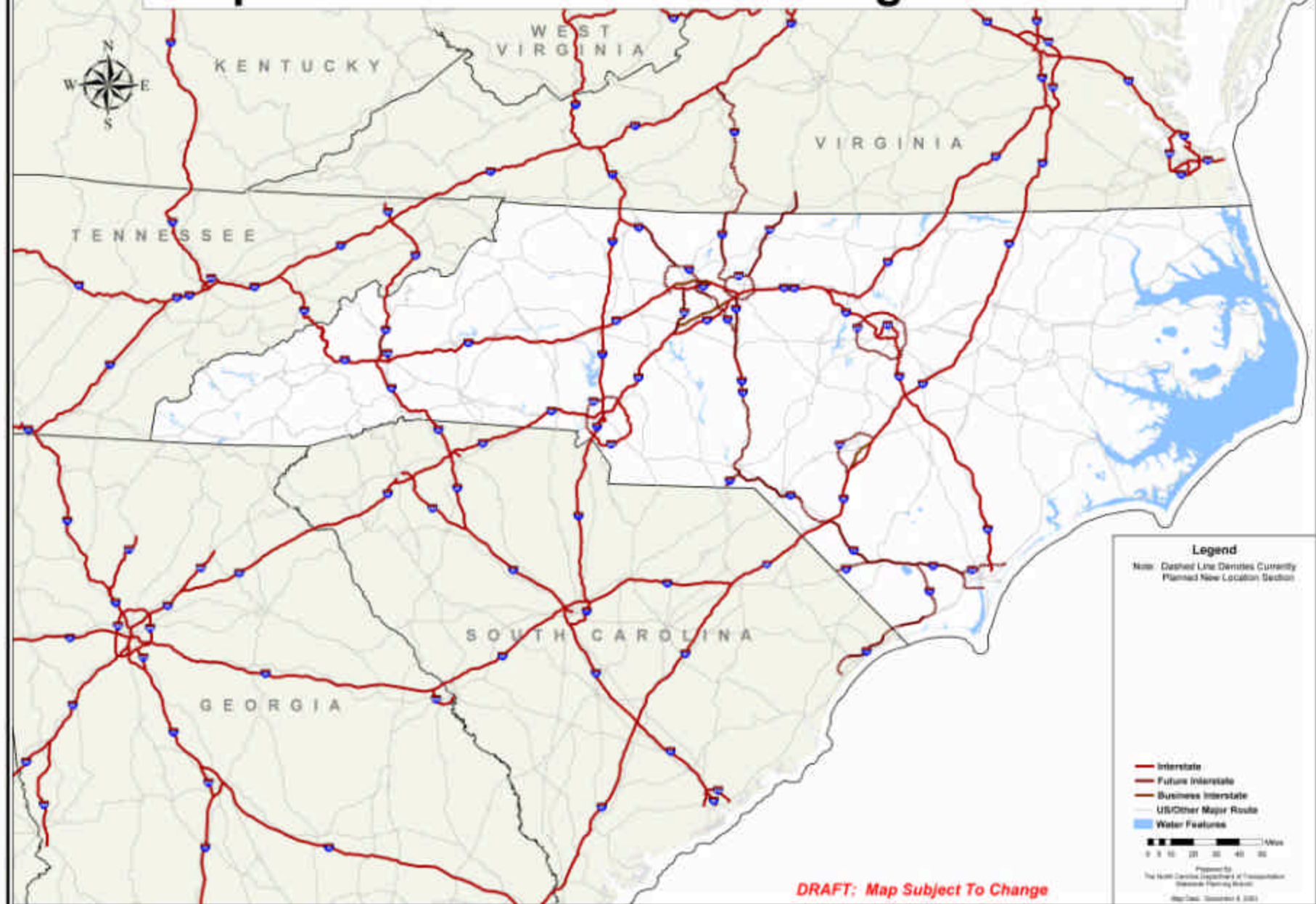
# Proposed North Carolina Strategic Corridors



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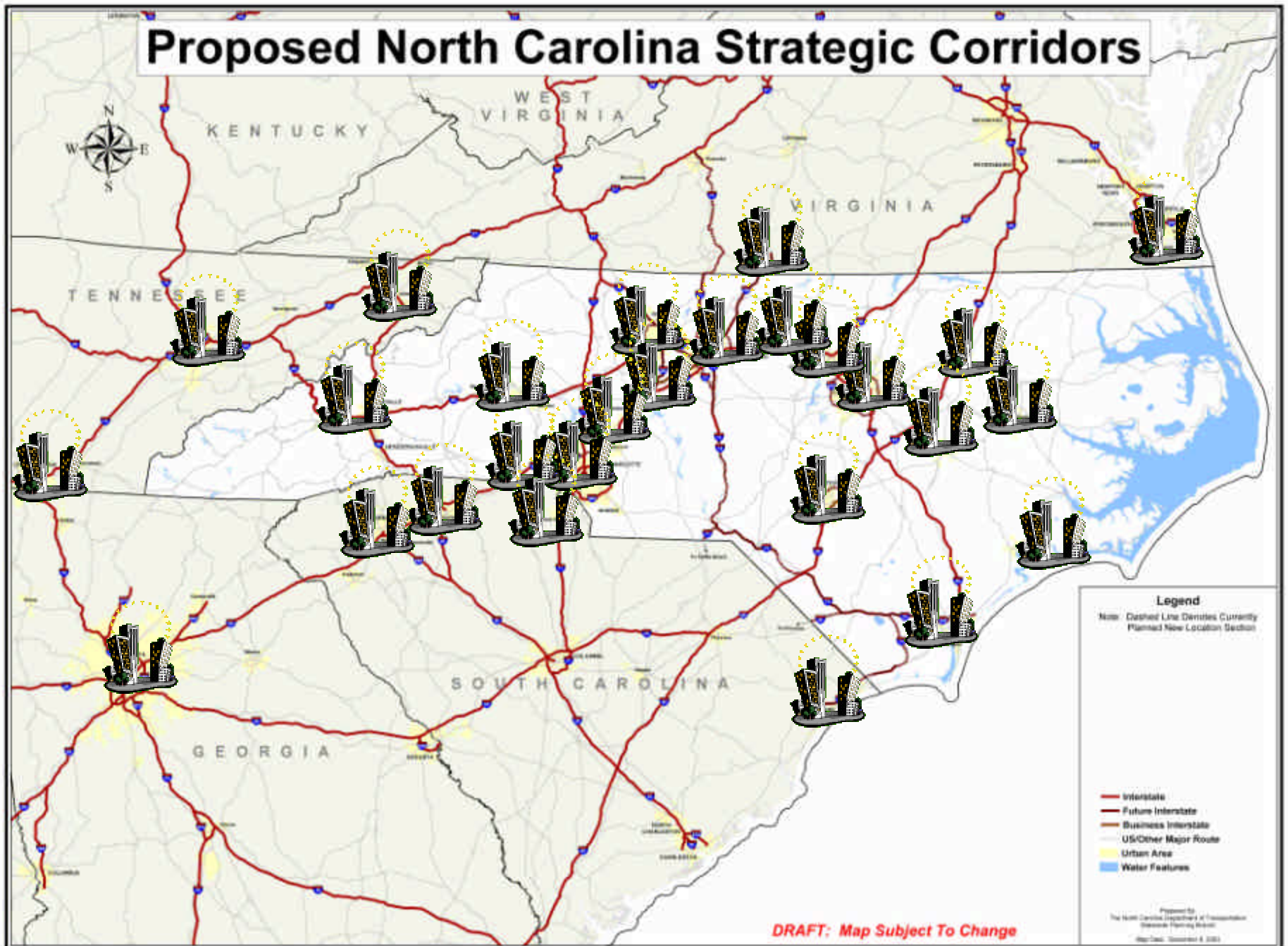
# Proposed North Carolina Strategic Corridors



**DRAFT: Map Subject To Change**

Prepared by  
The North Carolina Department of Transportation  
Strategic Planning Section  
Map Date: November 8, 2005

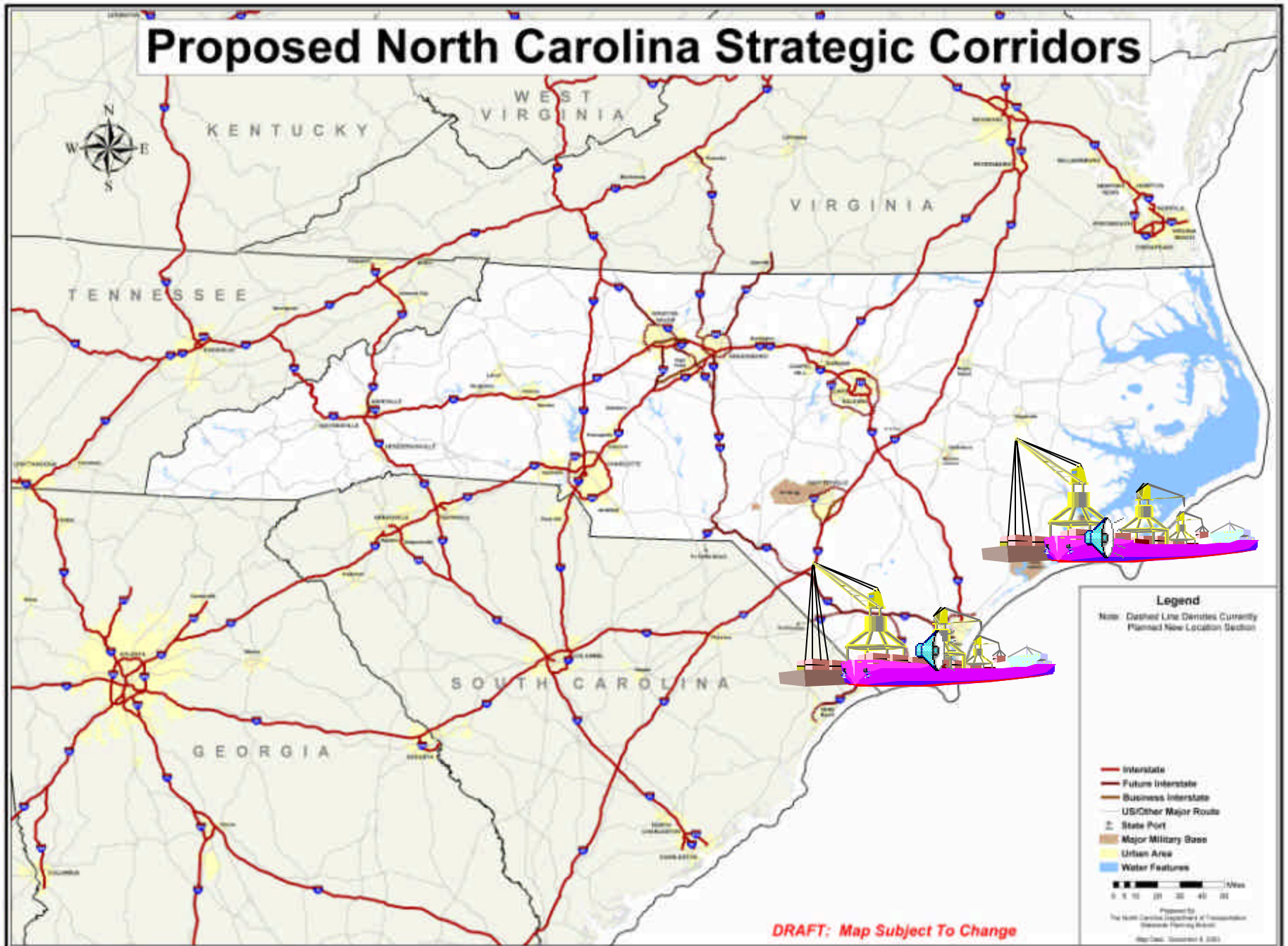
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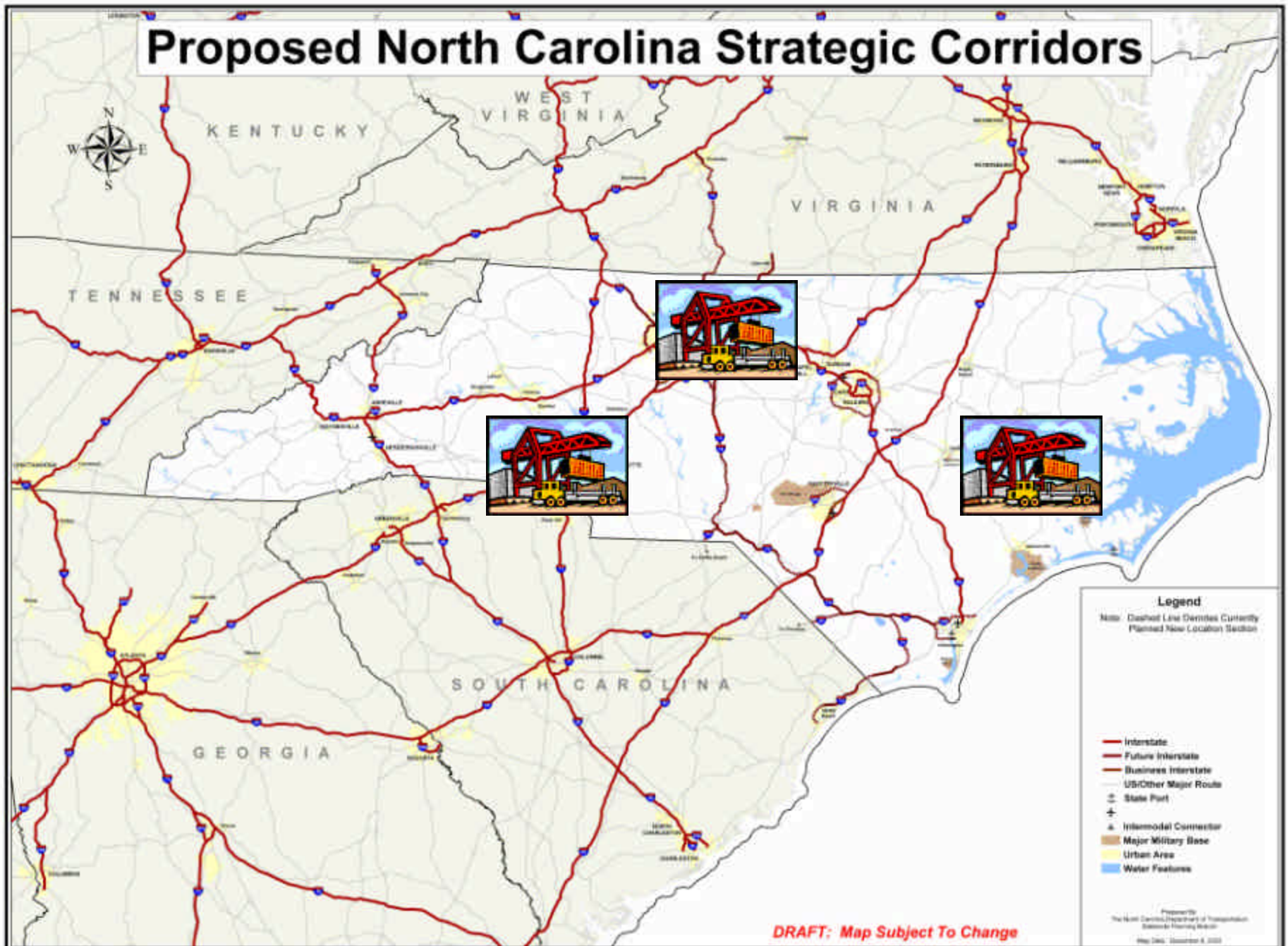
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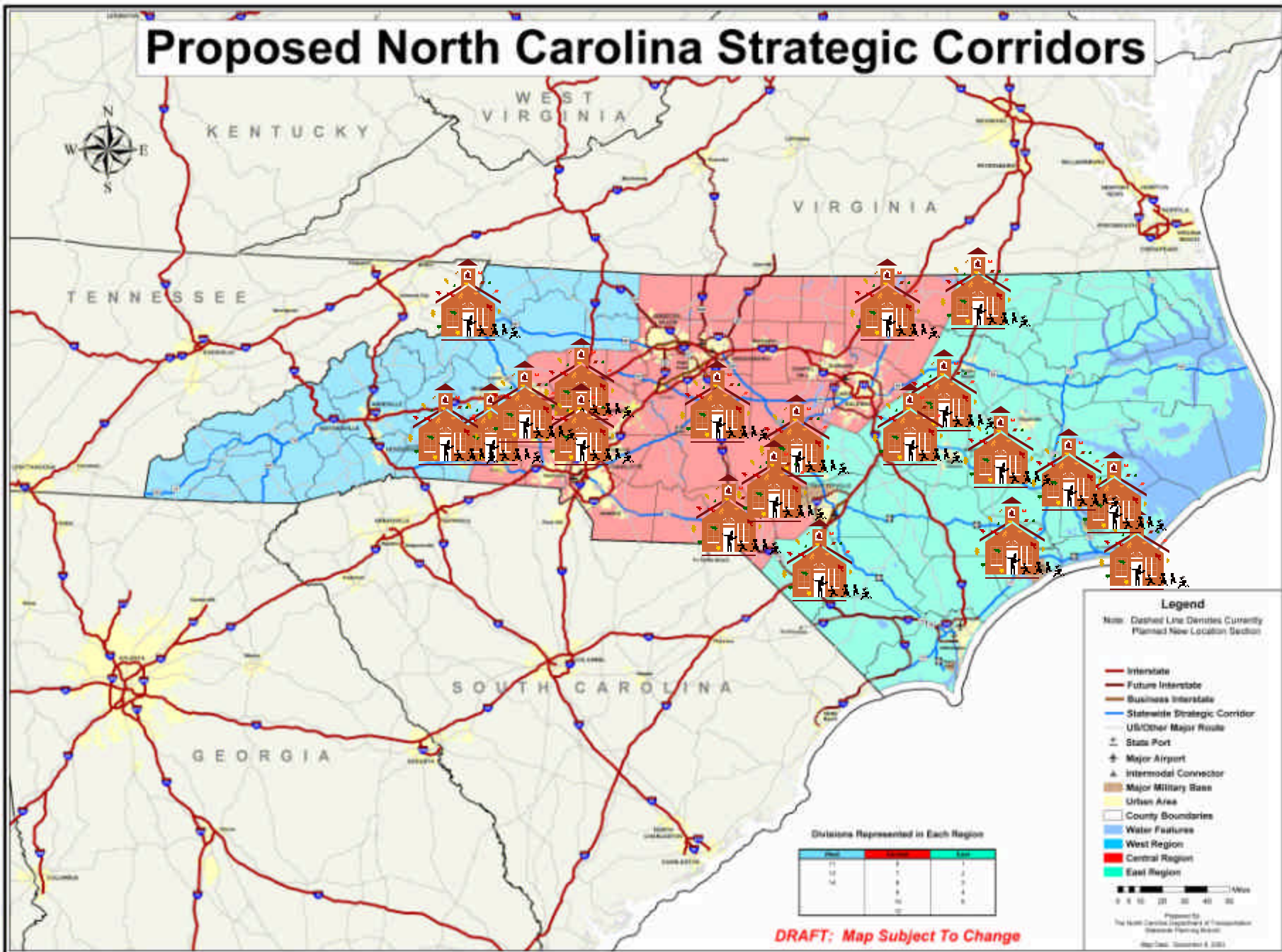
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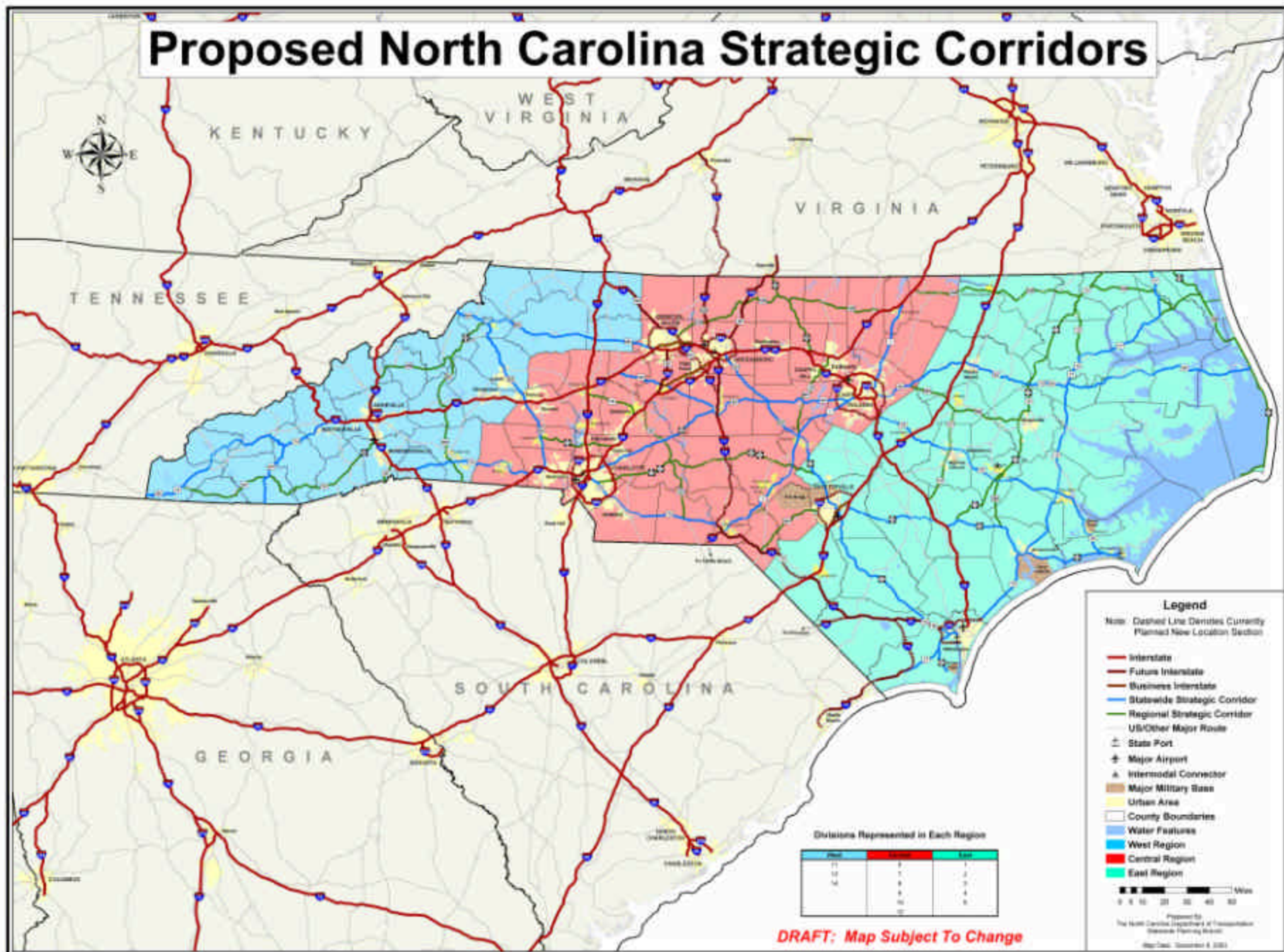


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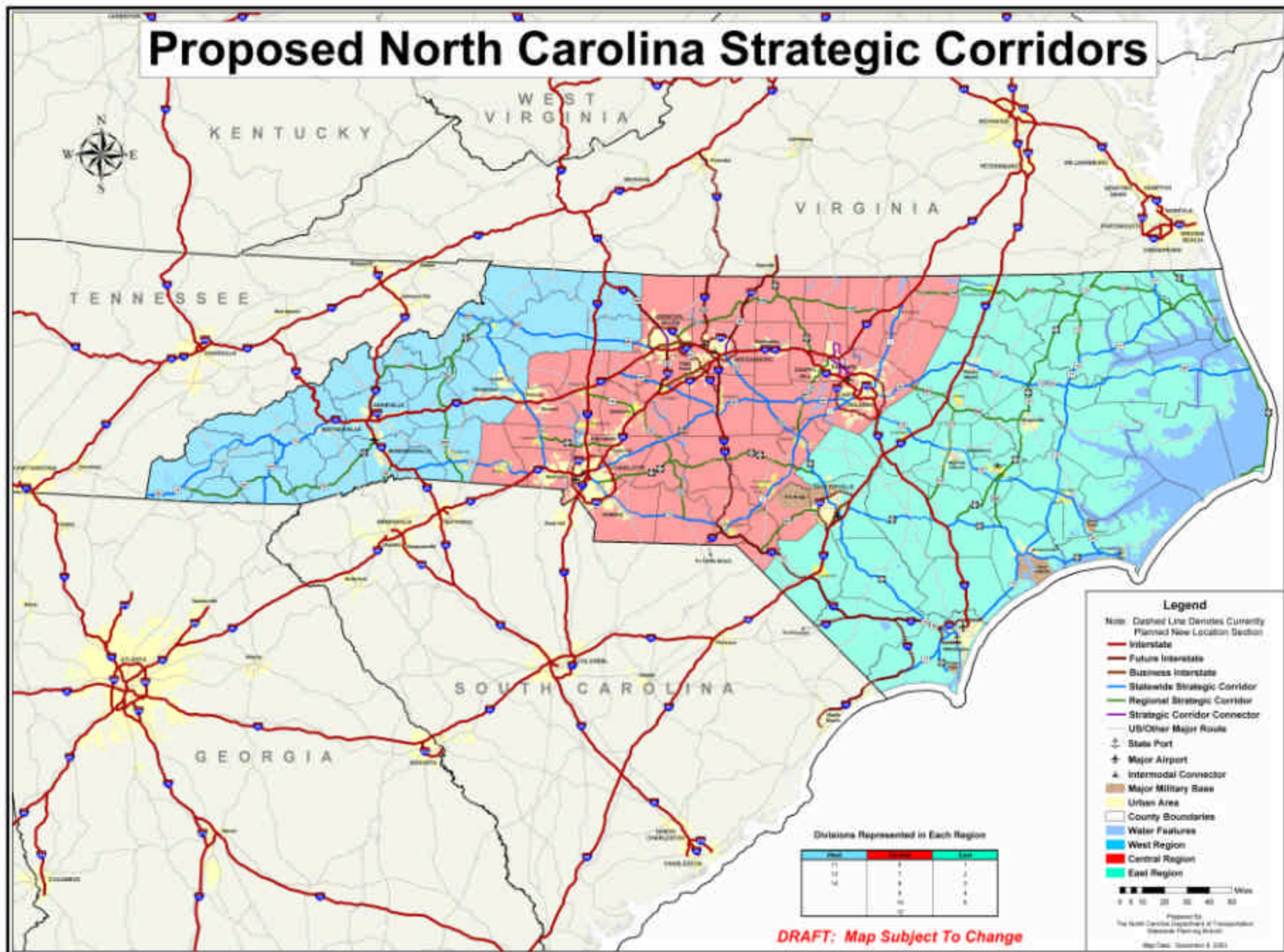
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# Proposed North Carolina Strategic Corridors





# ***What NCDOT Is Going To Do***

- 1. Develop Policy that Supports Strategic Corridors Concept**
- 2. Identify Short/Long Term Solutions for Corridors**
  - 3 Underway
    - US 64/NC 49- Pilot Study
    - US 17 in Brunswick County
    - NC 73 Transportation/Land Use Study
      - North of Charlotte

# *What NCDOT Is Going To Do*

## 3. Consideration of Strategic Corridors in Planning and Design Process (Incorporate into Transportation Plans, Design Decisions)

- Ex: If Project Involves Connection of 2 Strategic Corridors, Consider Higher-Speed Interchange Designs

## 4. Stress Protection of Strategic Corridors

- Ex: Closer Inspection of Driveway Applications and Traffic Signals along Corridors



# *What Are We Asking From You*

## Short Term

- **Promote** Importance of Good Access Management and Land Use Coordination
- **Protect Corridors** to Maintain High Quality of Service

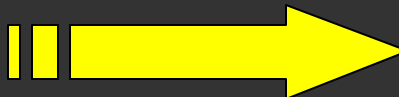
## Long Term

- Consideration of Access Management Process (Including Access Management Plans)
- Promote Land Use Strategic Coordination



# ***What Are We Asking From You***

- **Work with us on future Corridor Studies**
- **Affect Long-Term Decision Making**
  - Funding Decisions
  - Project Planning Decisions
  - Design Decisions
  - Day to Day Decisions (ex: Driveway Permits)
  - Local Land Use Decisions



# *Summary*

**Mobility and Connectivity**

**Economic Prosperity**

**Environmental Stewardship**